BUILDING A TRUST FRAMEWORK FOR COMMUNITIES AT RISK OF WILDFIRE

Christine S. Olsen

Dept of Forest Ecosystems & Society
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR, United States
Christine.Olsen@oregonstate.edu

Bruce Shindler, Oregon State University, US

Sarah McCaffrey, US Forest Service, US

Tara McGee, University of Alberta, Can

Emily Sharp, Charles Sturt University, Aus

Bonnie McFarlane, Canadian Forest Service, Can

Allan Curtis, Charles Sturt University, Aus

Amy Christianson, Canadian Forest Service, Can

JOINT FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM

Northern RESEARCH STATION USDA Forest Service

OSU Oregon State UNIVERSITY

Natural Resources Canada — Ressources naturelles Canada

Charles Sturt University INSTITUTE FOR LAND, WATER AND SOCIETY

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

What is trust?

What is a framework?

A JFSP tri-country project

- 8 researchers, 5 organizations, 3 countries
- Use literature and collective experience to develop a framework for recognizing, building, and maintaining trust in communities at risk of wildfire
- Relevant in the US, Canada, and Australia
- Ground-truth the framework and revise

The Framework – a work in progress

- Booklet or manual-style
- User-friendly
- Visuals
- Land manager audience
- Developed cooperatively

Inviting manager input

- Introductory cover letter
  - Set the stage
  - Make links among the countries
  - Acknowledge differences

The Framework – What is trust?

- Basic definitions
- Dimensions – uncertainty, risk, vulnerability, expectations, interdependence
- Types or levels – interpersonal, organizational, generalized, institutional
- Spectrum – micro to macro, interpersonal to social, thick to thin
- Critical and uncritical trust
- Trustworthiness – competence, benevolence, integrity

The Framework – Why is trust important?

- For the trust types:
  - Explain context
  - Provide example
  - Demonstrate relevancy

The Framework – What actions influence trust?

- For the trust types:
  - Explain actions that could foster
  - Explain actions that could hinder
  - Relate to other types of trust
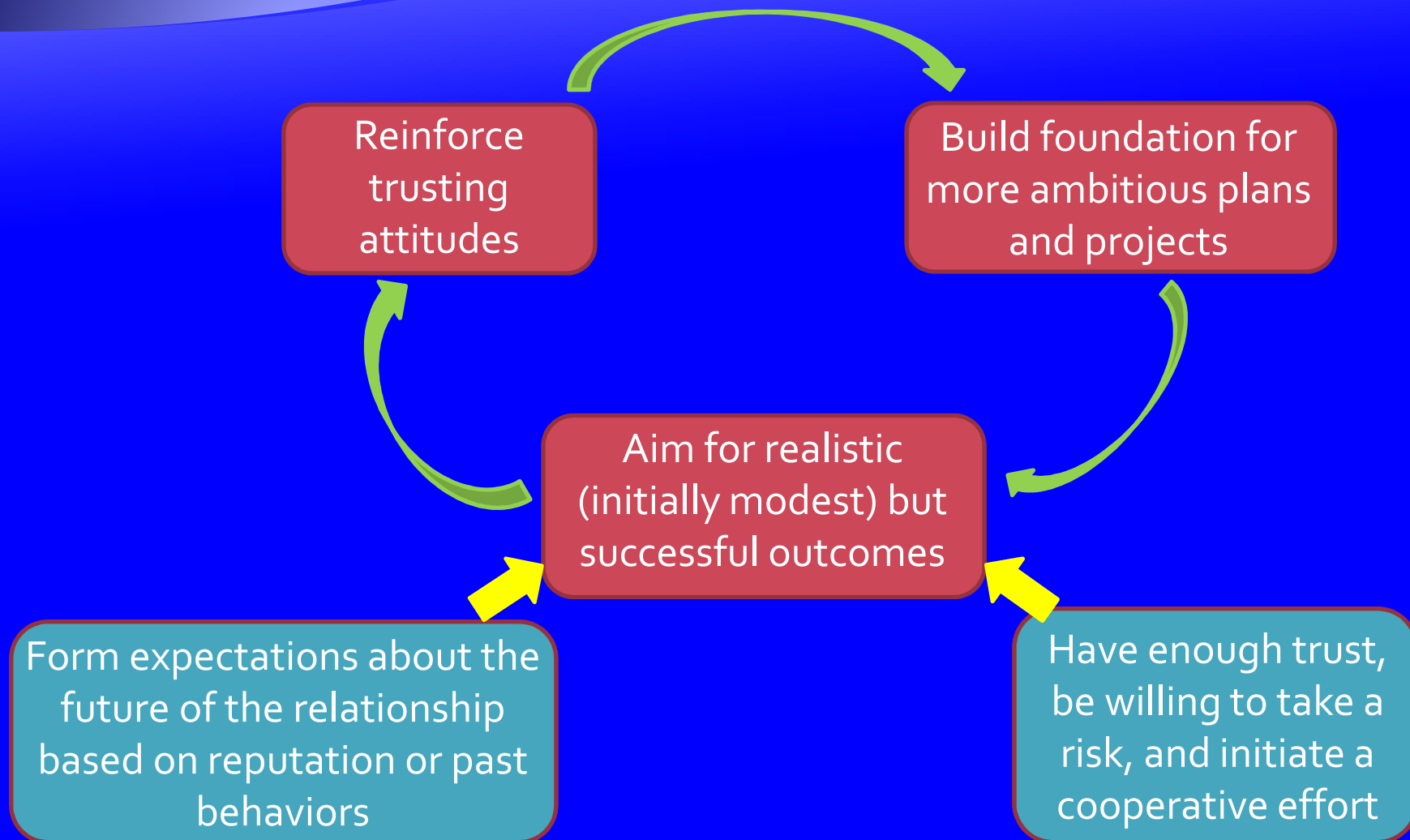- Action categories: organizational, individual, interactional

The Framework – What is the outcome?

- Place the outcome of actions in relevant context
- Link the outcomes to the Trust Building Loop

Trust Building Loop
(Huxham and Vangen)

Reinforce trusting attitudes

Build foundation for more ambitious plans and projects

Aim for realistic (initially modest) but successful outcomes

Form expectations about the future of the relationship based on reputation or past behaviors

Have enough trust, be willing to take a risk, and initiate a cooperative effort

The Framework – Checkpoints

One Example

Type of Trust	Why Important	Actions Influence	Outcome
Organizational – Individual's trust in agency or organization	1. Agencies manage land at federal, state, provincial level 2. Resources come from the higher-level agencies	1. Transparent decision processes (fairness) 2. Honesty	Greater support for higher-level policies

Example Checkpoint

◆ Organizational trust

Who is the decision-maker, and who else is affected?

Do we explain how decisions are made?

Is our planning and decision process open?

What are we hiding from view?

Repeat
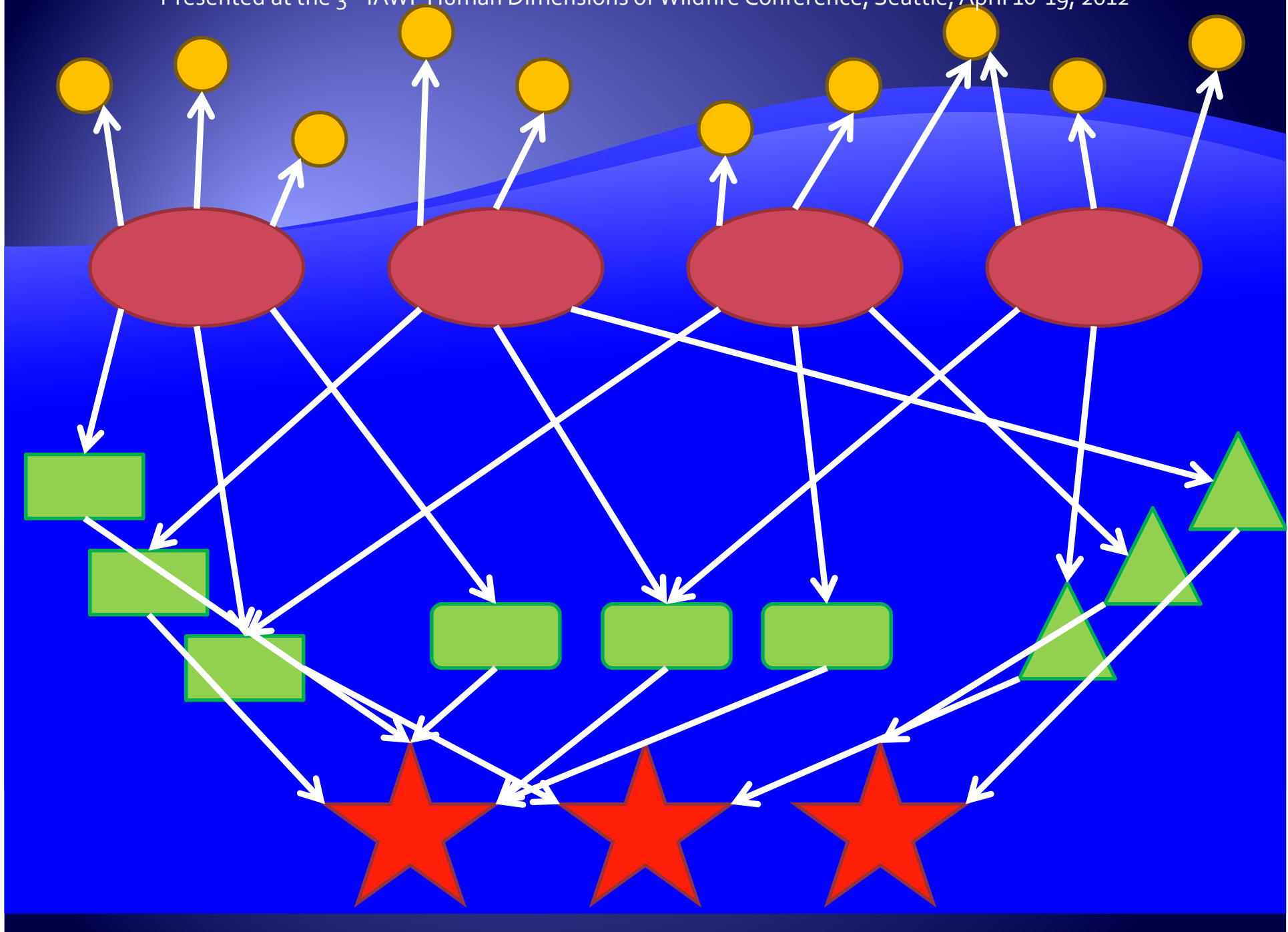
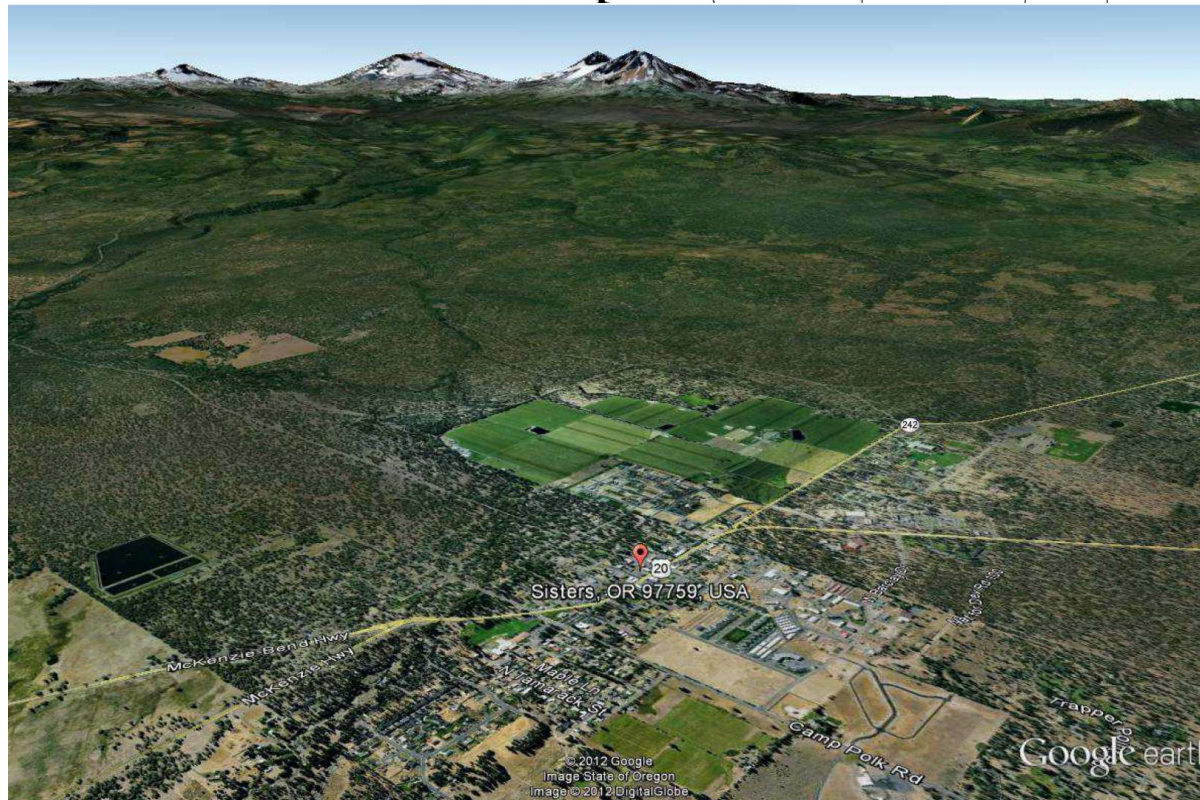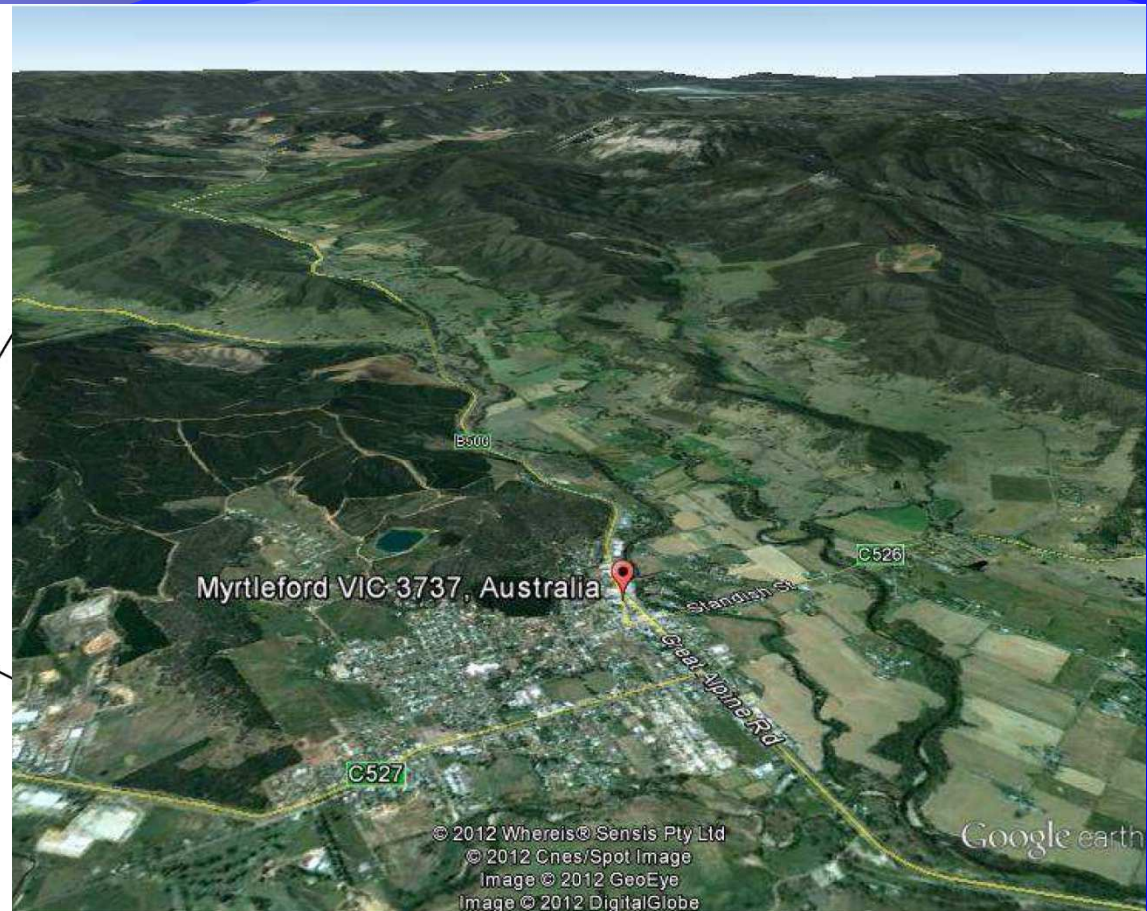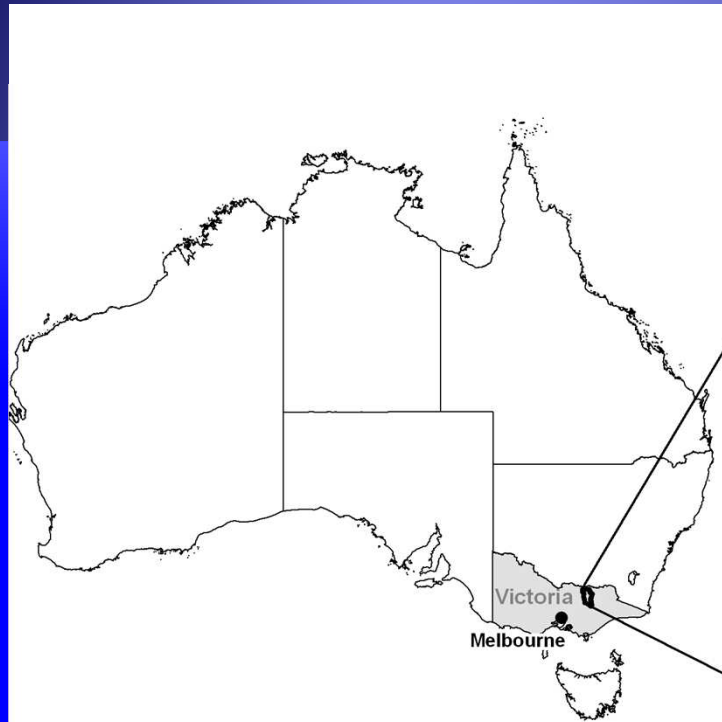# The Framework – on the road

- Ground-truth and adapt
- Full team visits each country
- Half-day workshop with agency personnel
- Host country scientists facilitate, visiting country scientists observe and analyze
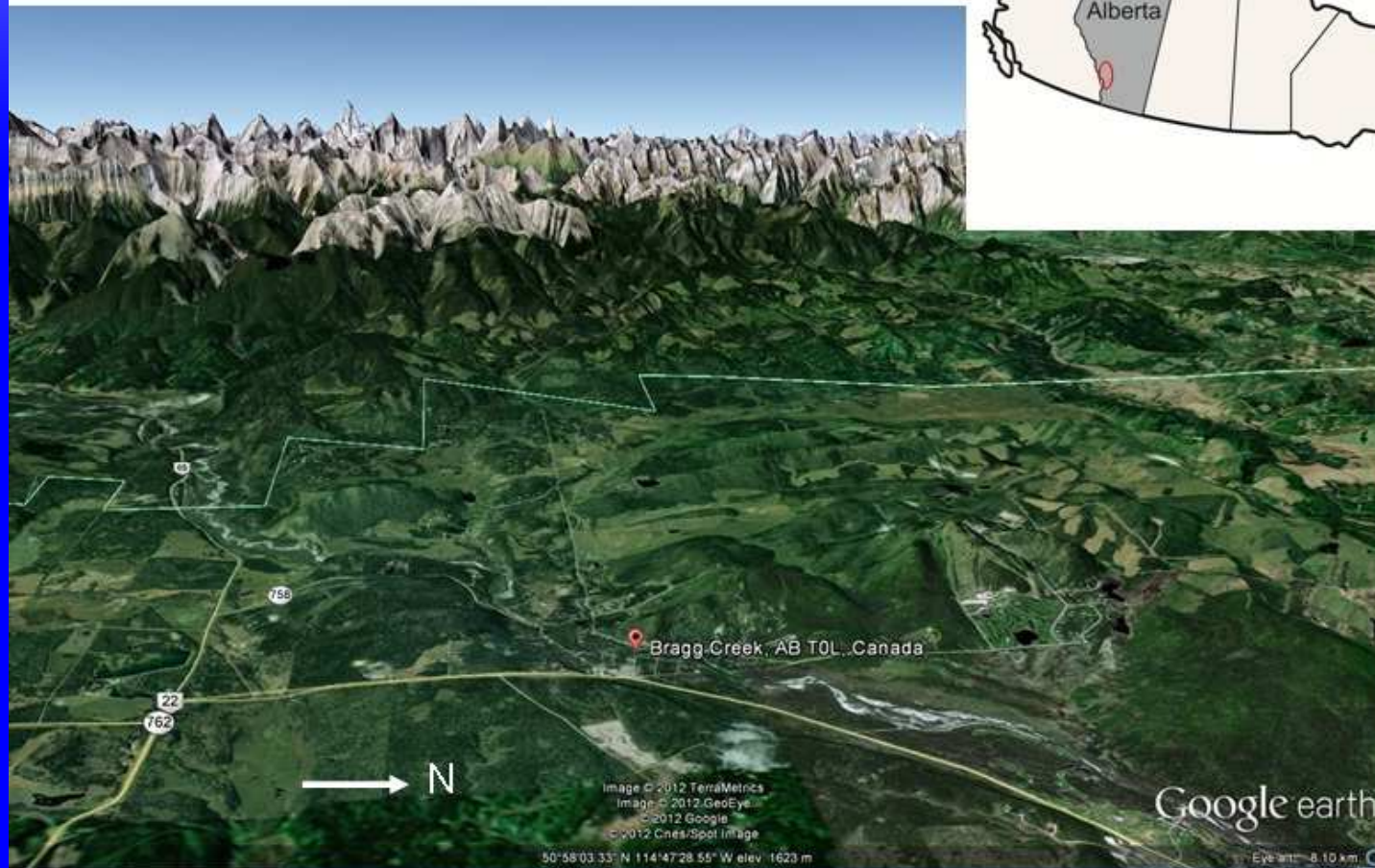- Compulsory visits to the forest

Sisters, Oregon, US

Myrtleford, Victoria, Australia

Bragg Creek, Alberta, Canada

Then what? So what?

- Strengthening ties within research team
- Strengthening ties with communities
- Examining commonalities among three countries on many levels
- Providing user-friendly framework
- Publish on the framework, and on the process of getting to the final product

Questions and Suggestions